

## Responding to CD Outbreaks-PH-SKC

Large outbreaks of communicable diseases can affect virtually any segment of the population. Diseases that are likely to occur as outbreaks include:

- Foodborne illnesses
  - ✓ *E.coli* O157:H7
  - ✓ Salmonellosis
  - ✓ Shigellosis
- Waterborne illnesses
  - ✓ Cryptosporidiosis
  - ✓ Giardiasis
- Vectorborne diseases
  - ✓ Hantavirus
  - ✓ Lyme disease
  - ✓ Plague
- Or diseases spread via respiratory secretions
  - ✓ Influenza
  - ✓ Measles
  - ✓ Meningococcus
  - ✓ Mumps
  - ✓ Rubella
  - ✓ Streptococcus
  - ✓ Varicella (Chickenpox)

## Role of the Health Department

The main objectives are to:

- investigate and control communicable disease outbreaks
- collect data about disease incidence and prevalence
- provide information to the public

# Investigating and Controlling Communicable Disease Outbreaks

All reports of notifiable diseases and known or suspected outbreaks should be forwarded immediately to the Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Section (CD/EPI):

- Telephone (206-296-4774 or 206-296-4782)
- FAX (206-296-4803)
- Mail (999 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Ste. 900, Seattle, WA 98104)
- 24-Hour Disease Report Line (206-296-4782)

- It is the responsibility of CD/EPI to investigate all reports and determine the appropriate interventions.
- It is also the responsibility of CD/EPI to communicate the investigation results to other public health agencies and to coordinate the disease control response.

CD/EPI will quickly investigate reports about infectious diseases among individuals, especially food handlers, child care workers, or children attending child care, and will determine whether the public was exposed. If an exposure has occurred, CD/EPI will arrange for the appropriate control measures to deal with the problem. Control efforts often include education and publicity about the problem.

CD/EPI will provide an appropriate response to each disease. There are three manuals that guide the Department's response to communicable disease problems:

- Communicable Disease Control Protocol
- Child Care Infection Control Guidelines
- Immunization Manual.

Copies of the Child Care Infection Control Guidelines and the Immunization Manual can be found throughout the health department. The Communicable Disease Control Protocol is only available at the office of CD/EPI.

## ② Collecting Data About Disease Incidence and Prevalence

CD/EPI investigates communicable diseases and maintains statistics on local notifiable disease occurrence and risk factors.

During a public health emergency, additional surveillance may be necessary to monitor disease trends. During a disaster, such as an earthquake, regular mechanisms for reporting communicable disease outbreaks may not function. CD/EPI may request assistance from the district offices to carry out components of disease surveillance and control. During a large emergency, the director's office may request that additional or unique surveillance be considered. Refer to Section V of this manual for potential surveillance instruments.

## ③ Providing Information to the Public

The health department must be able to provide the public accurate information about disease outbreaks and predict the community's need for information and disease control services. Sometimes the public may not be focused on the correct problem. For example, the public may become concerned about typhoid, which is unlikely to occur in King County, even in a disaster situation. At the same time, the health department must ensure that accurate information is available to prevent disease outbreaks in an emergency. For example, the public may not understand the importance of basic preventive measures such as boiling or chemically treating contaminated water, eating food that has been stored properly, or getting a tetanus vaccination, if injured. The health department should offer information and services that are appropriate for the specific recovery effort.

For information on current communicable disease outbreaks  
**Communicable Disease Hot Line (206) 296-4949**

**SEE ALSO:**

- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Amebiasis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Botulism”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Campylobacteriosis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Cholera”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Cryptosporidiosis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Cyclosporiasis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “*E.coli* O157:H7**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “*E. coli* O157: H7 Facts For The Food Industry”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “*E. Coli* O157:H7 Facts for the Public”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Giardiasis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Hantavirus”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Head Lice”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Hepatitis A”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Influenza (Flu) and Influenza Vaccine”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Lyme Disease”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Measles”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Meningococcus and Meningococcal Disease”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Mumps”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Pertussis (Whooping Cough)”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Psittacosis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Rabies”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Exposure to a Human Rabies Case; Questions and Answers”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Rifampin”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Salmonellosis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Shigellosis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Tetanus Prevention and Care of Puncture Wounds”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Typhoid Fever”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Vibriosis”**
- ⇒ **Fact Sheet “Yersiniosis”**